



NOVEMBER, 96

THE GARZETTE



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

GARS Ham Of The Month John Veach, KE4D

By Karl Phillips, N4JON

John Veach, KE4D, is this month's **GARS** Ham Of The Month. I was fortunate enough to meet John at the Lawrenceville hamfest, as we shared the duties of manning the **GARS** booth on Sunday of the hamfest. We spent about 3 hours of conversation in between greeting hams interested in the literature we had available at our booth. We even signed up a new member of the club.!!!

John grew up in Lebanon, Indiana. His grammar school and junior high days were spent there and after eight years his parents relocated to Escondido, California. He spent his first two years of high school there and then moved back to Indiana, where he graduated. John also lived briefly in Fort Payne, Alabama and even picked cotton as a youngster. John attended college at Indiana University and Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, Florida.

John was first licensed in 1974 as a novice and obtained the call sign WN4IKG. His first rig was a Heathkit DX-60 and a HR10B. John had the typical novice antenna - a dipole. John's first QSO just happened to be his

most memorable one, not only because it was his first but because his first contact was with a ham who was an airline pilot, in flight over Vienna, Virginia. The amazing part about this "aeronautical mobile" QSO was the fact that they were engaged in a CW QSO. John is still trying to figure out how this pilot was able to pay attention to all those dials, switches and knobs and still carry on a CW contact. I guess the "auto pilot" would really come in handy if you wanted to "ham" during a flight.

John's other hobbies are computers and golf. Just like all hams, John admits that he "sure hams better than he golfs."

John's radio room sounds quite impressive. He has a Kenwood TS-440s, a new ALA amp that runs 600 watts, a dipole and a R5. John and I talked about his next project, which he has already begun. John has a 49 foot tower lying in the yard just waiting for that 5 band quad he's got, brand new and still in the box. He is currently awaiting all of the legal paperwork to go through so he can pour the

(Continued on page 8)

The President's Pen

By Howie Gould, W4NVF

Well our new meeting place at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville sure is nice and very accommodating to say the least. This will be our home for a while, we have paid our rent for 11 months so at least we know there will be a place to hold our monthly meetings for the next year.

Thanks go out to Kevin McClure, KF4HFN for the great job he did on the bulkhead for the Lanier Mountain radio building.

Thanks to Bill Ahls, KE4EIH and Carter Wood, KF4HLF for rounding up all those scouts that showed up at the JOTA event. It was a very interesting day and many a Boy Scout went home with a certificate of merit and some knowl-

edge of ham radio to boot.

Thanks to Kathy Baker, KE4WYF and Jim Baker, KR4XY for the many hours of their time they gave to the **GARS** in making sure that everyone got their **GARS** clothing that they ordered and being on all the committees in the past. Jim has been a long time supporter of the club and we are so pleased that the Baker's have a beautiful new baby taking up their time lately. We hope that they will join us whenever they get the chance to do so. In the meantime, we will miss their smiling faces and support.

Larson Watts, KF4HLH as you all should know has taken

(Continued on page 9)

Inside This Issue

Meeting Minutes	Page 2
Rookie Radio Notes	Page 3
The Permit	Page 4
Contests Are For Everyone	Page 5
Some Field Day Observations	Page 6
GARS Holiday Party	Page 6
The Way I See It, Part V	Page 7
Handling "Sliders"	Page 8

THE GARZETTE

THE GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ichapman@intergate.net or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 903-6789, to Ike Chapman in the **GARS** conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as a uuencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer. Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

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My thanks to all of them for their help in producing **THE GARZETTE**.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in **THE GARZETTE** or for information concerning advertisement rates for **THE GARZETTE** should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor

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Meeting Minutes

By Bill Ahls, KE4EIH

GARS Secretary

In attendance: President Howie Gould, W4NVF; Vice President Larry Osborne, KD4QFD; Secretary Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Treasurer Randy Drescher, K4HS; Activities Manager Marty Fowler, KE4MLH.

The meeting was called to order by President Gould on October 17, 1996, at 19:30 local time at the Central Baptist Church in Lawrenceville.

All members and visitors were invited to introduce themselves with a total of 52 persons signing the meeting log.

Randy Drescher, K4HS, presented the treasurers report and current **GARS** checking balance which was approved by the membership.

The minutes for the September meeting were approved as published in the **GARZETTE**.

Suzanne Farr, reported on the Christmas party with the suggested price of \$25 for couples and \$15 for individuals. The motion to accept the Christmas party plans a proposed was passed. Best Western Falcon Inn in Suwanee, December 20 with a 7:30 PM registration and 8:00 PM eating was decided. Suzanne reminded all members to get any **GARS** club apparel, shirts, or hats picked up from her that were ordered or you may place new orders.

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN, said the Rookie Radio AT kits were assembled in two hours became six.

Carter Wood, KF4HLF and Bill Ahls, KE4EIH talked about the International Scout Jamboree On The Air for final details. The date and time is Saturday, October 19

from 8 AM to 2 PM at the Lawrenceville UMC Campgrounds.

Mark Kozma, KD3GC, presented the club activities possible with ARRL Sweepstakes in November. First weekend is CW and third weekend is phone and also reported on the latest Field Day Committee meeting. Don Button, AJ1T comment that **GARS** was 15th in US for Field Day 1996 as reported in QST.

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI announced the next meeting will be on Skywarn and will start at 7:00 PM so all attending will be certified Weather Spotters at the end.

All **GARS** table volunteers for the Lawrenceville hamfest need to contact Johnny Fearon, W4WKP for coordination of time.

David Adcock, KA4KKF presented three applicants for membership in **GARS**. A motion was made and seconded to accept the applicants as presented and passed without opposition. The new members of **GARS** are: Walter Burleson, KF4JVF; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ; and Tom Ewing, KF4FKV.

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM, said the next fox hunt will be Tuesday Oct. 22, 7:00 PM at the Lawrenceville water tower.

Stu Sims, N4MXC, SERA Georgia director presented information on the history and growth of the SERA organization with the growth of repeaters in the Southeast.

The meeting was adjourned at 22:15 local time by President Gould.

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Rookie Radio Notes

By Cheryl McClure, AE4HN

Let's take a minute to talk about HT's. The first radio most new hams want to buy is an HT, which stands for "Handy Talkie". They have a lot of benefits, but they will not do it all.

If you are listening to a net while you work in the yard or moving to different rooms of the house, an HT is certainly more "handy" than trying to use a mobile rig hooked up to a power supply and outdoor antenna. If you are back-packing or just taking a stroll around town, again the HT is the radio of choice. They are great for working parades or other times you need to communicate over short distances. If you live very close to the repeater, you may find no problem using the HT for short transmissions.

Now let's talk about the limitations of the HT. The HT is handy because of its compact size. It has a stubby little "rubber duck" antenna that doesn't take up much space. You must also remember that this antenna has zero gain. None. Nada. Whatever power the HT battery is able to generate is all there is. Now if everything is working well and you have a fresh battery, that could possibly be 5 watts. More than likely it's less. Often it's a lot less. If you have used the battery for a while, you are probably putting out one watt or less. One watt through a no gain antenna will not get very far. It may be enough to bring up the repeater, but when you try to talk to someone, they will tell you your signal is weak or there's a lot of "white noise". With a weak signal you may be able to bring up the phone patch, but not complete your call. You may not even be able to shut the patch down once you've brought it up. Also, if you are at all long winded in your conversations, you will discover that the radio gets very hot in your hand

with a prolonged transmission. Some hams have come up with ingenious ideas to get around this, such as clipping the HT to a metal bookend to act as a heat sink. Short transmissions will prevent excessive heating and also prolong your battery life.

If you want to communicate regularly from your home or car, you simply cannot beat a 50 watt mobile rig. In your car it should be properly wired into the battery and at home you will need an adequate power supply. Yes it cost a little more money than an HT, but if you listen to the GARS nets or attend hamfests you can find used equipment at bargain prices. I rarely use more than five watts on my mobile rig, but it's a true and constant five watts that is being transmitted through an antenna with gain. It makes a tremendous difference. So, HT's are great when used for what they do best. When you try to push them beyond their limitations, you will run into trouble.

♦♦♦

Random Ramblings

"There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot."

>>> Stephen Wright

"Until you walk a mile in another man's moccasins you can't imagine the smell."

>>> Robert Byrne

"I told the doctor I broke my leg in two places. He told me to quit going to those places."

>>> Henry Youngman

"When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action. They rented out my room."

>>> Woody Allen

1996-1997

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♦♦♦

The Permit

By John Veach, KE4D

After living in an antenna restricted sub-division for three years in South Florida, my wife (KB4FFO) and I decided our home in Georgia would not be in a neighborhood where all the houses are under the scrutiny of a homeowners association. Not only do I not want someone to tell me what color my house should be and what kind of trees to plant, I wanted to put up a tower and get back on HF with a decent signal.

After renting an apartment temporarily, Libby and I started looking for neighborhoods where antennas were sprouting from the rooftops. We eventually settled on a home in Habersham Hills off of Georgia 20. I have a half acre and lots of tall hardwoods for dipoles.

Knowing that most of the best stuff on the used market comes from local hams and word of mouth, I began relating my desire to find a tower on the **GARS** two meter repeater. Johnny, W4WKP sent me an e-mail with a telephone number and the details on a U.S. Tower 55 foot crank up tilt over model TX455. Libby and I went over to Ken, W4V4O's QTH and purchased the tower that day. I thought this was all pretty well planned since the September **GARS** meeting program was about towers and permits in Gwinnett County.

On Saturday, October 12, Lowery, KM4Z and Carl, WA4ZUW met with me and two ex-friends from my office to pick up the tower. I rented a 26 foot U-Haul truck and with a lot of straining and a few expletives, we managed to get the 690 pound monster into the back of the truck. (The color is coming back to my right foot and I will probably be walking without a limp by the time the **GARZETTE** comes out.)

Armed with all of the knowledge imparted to us at the Septem-

ber meeting and with \$25 worth of engineering documents from U.S. Tower, I proceeded to the J&A building just before 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 17.

Arriving at the information counter, I inquired as to the location of the Environmental Health Services office, since we have a septic tank and I needed their approval. Much to my dismay, Environmental Health does not occupy any portion of the J&A building. A very helpful lady at the information desk drew me a map and sent me off to Oak Street (under the water tower) for my Health Department approval.

I arrived at this new office about 8:15 and proceeded to ask the person behind the counter what I needed to do to get permission to erect an amateur radio tower in my back yard. She told me she had never had a request for anything like that before, but would check into it. A few minutes later, she came back with a hand drawn map of my yard with the septic tank and drain field positioned in what I hope is the correct location. I had to draw another plan of my home, locating the tower in relation to the septic system and the setbacks from the property line. Although it was obvious that the proposed tower is no where near the septic or drain field, an engineer had to come and approve the paperwork with an official stamp and signature. He was very cheerful and courteous, (a difficult concept to get used to when you come from South Florida) By about 8:30, I was on my way back to the J&A building.

The Planning and Development Department is at the end of the west wing of the J&A building. I explained to the receptionist there what I needed to do. She asked me if the tower was under 50 feet or over, I said under and she di-

rected me to a planner who handles the under fifty foot structures for Gwinnett County.

This very pleasant lady looked at my survey and left to confer with one of the gentlemen who provided our program in September. A few minutes later, she returned with the pronouncement that all I needed was a copy of the survey, the location of the tower and her signature and I could go to the permit department. She asked me again the height of my tower. I told her it was a crank up and could be whatever height I choose. She then informed me that my tower was obviously 49.5 feet tall and I said "Yes Ma'am"

Smug in the knowledge that I knew exactly what to do and had all the information that could possibly be asked of me, I proceeded to go the ten feet from the "look it over department" to the "pay your money desk" where they issue the actual permit. There I met "Sandy".

Sandy, asked me what I wanted, I explained. She looked at my approval from the planning, development group and asked me who I had conferred with. My snappy reply "someone over there" did not seem to satisfy Sandy, who was quickly becoming my preconceived notion of a bureaucrat. She informed me that I had not gone far enough into the layers of the Planning Department, and I needed to wait here. She would return. After a long wait (ten minutes?) Sandy returned to her side of the desk and told me there was absolutely no problem. She had me fill out the permit form and told me it would take about 15 or 20 minutes.

As the aforementioned time period expired, another nice person brought me the huge permit to place in my yard and quietly billed me \$55.

(Continued on page 5)

The Permit

(Continued from page 4)

\$55! I thought the guys from the Building Department said this would cost \$30. Well, it did cost \$30 for the permit. However, there was a charge for a residential completion certificate for \$25. No one has been able to explain to me what this \$25 charge is for. On the other hand, I do have a valid building permit. Perhaps it is worth the extra \$25 to not rock the boat and bring more attention to my project. No one ever asked to see my engineering drawings, footer plans, tower structure drawings etc. The only documentation I provided to the county was my survey, the location of the tower and the distance from each property line. No one asked the actual height of the tower, except for my friend in the planning department. They did ask me if I was going to run electricity to the tower. I said no, comfortable in the knowledge that the voltage to run my rotor probably didn't qualify as a real electrical connection.

All in all, it was a pretty painless experience. In the mid 80s I built my own home in West Palm Beach. The permit process was much more difficult and the bureaucracy was much worse. Of course, this project is not quite as extensive as a two story 4 bedroom, three bath home, but then again, I still haven't decided how to get two yards of concrete into my back yard.

The moral of this story could be; Be prepared. Take everything you have about your project with you. Don't offer anything unless asked and if it costs you a few bucks more, pay it and be happy.

♦♦♦



Contests Are For Everyone

By Don Button, AJ1T

Many of you have probably noticed by now that I have been on the Tuesday night **GARS** net announcing many of the major HF activities. These are largely contest oriented activities, but they are certainly not limited to contests. There are many special events stations which frequent our HF bands each weekend, and of course, the usual ragchewing. But in this article, I want to speak about the contests.

First I'd like to say that I am NOT a serious tester. It may sound that way from the listings I announce each Tuesday night, but please believe me when I say that I virtually never spend entire weekends pounding out hundreds or thousands of QSOs!

My motivation to announce these activities has several parts. First, I would like to encourage as many people as possible to use the HF bands frequently. Second, it provides an excellent reason to be proficient in CW use. If you use repeaters for 98% of your on-the-air time, clearly CW proficiency is not very important. But strictly repeater operation misses so much of the great thrill that amateur radio has to offer! You really need to get in there and immerse yourself in 20 meter or 40 meter CW (or phone) and get some good contacts in your logbook (including some DX!) to find the "magic" of the HF bands.

Contests provide an excellent place to begin this, or to continue it for many years. Contests can be almost anything you would like them to be. They do not have to be heavy-duty competition and high code speeds if you prefer alternatives. Usually most contest activity is centered on the lower ends of the phone and CW sub-bands. If you look higher up in the band, you will find many operators who are still making lots of contacts, but they are not going at the furious pace of

the "proficient" testers normally found around 14.030 MHz. Try up around 14.060 or higher for a number of more leisurely contacts. These could provide you with a few new states for WAS, or a few new countries for DXCC.

These guidelines also work on the other HF bands. The majority of the phone activity is centered on the advanced sub-bands, and the lower portions of the general sub-bands. Look higher up, well up into the general class areas, and you frequently find lots of stations with few or no stations waiting to work them. These are the ones you can often work on the first call. They will usually take some time to help you if you are not familiar with the contest "exchange" - the information both of you need to communicate for the contact to be valid.

You can try this easily during the weekend of December 14-15, during the ARRL 10 meter contest. There will probably be some propagation in the late afternoons on 10 meters that weekend, and stations are often easy to work. Simple verticals or dipoles are enough to make many QSOs. Do give it a try, so we can hear you on the repeater bragging about the 15 new states you worked that weekend!

♦♦♦

Random Ramblings

"Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more."

>>> Mark Twain

"One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries."

>>> A. A. Milne

♦♦♦

Some Field Day Reflections and Observations

By Don Button AJ1T

If you are a League member, you probably noticed that November QST is filled with the June, 1996, Field Day results. I found the results quite interesting and they also provide insight into how future Field Days at **GARS** could be even better.

First, I was pleased that the old reliable N1NH (the Nashua, New Hampshire Radio Club) put on their usual extravaganza with no less than 20 (yes, 20!) stations on the air! They "won" Field Day with 21,756 points, the highest score of any entry. I am pleased to be a former member of this club - one of the finest I have seen anywhere (but **GARS** is just as fine, and we have more fun, anyway!)

Second, the color photo on the front cover of QST is from none other than the Portland (Maine) Amateur Wireless Association, showing their fine set-up at Portland Head Light, overlooking the rocky Atlantic Ocean shoreline in southern Maine. I am also a former member of that club, too. Their set-up is much improved from about five years ago, when it was rather meager. I like their ARRL flag flying so prominently.

Besides the personal notes, the scores are interesting. Did you know that 2A (two transmitters) is the most popular entry? There were 600 entries with two rigs on the air. Did you know that there were only 73 other entries in the 5A category? (That was the **GARS** category last June.)

Did you know that there were two stations in the 5A category that placed in the "top 10" listing? And did you know that a station placed in the Top 10 with only four rigs on the air?

Interesting, because this shows me that it does not take an

overwhelming set-up to have one of the highest scoring entries in the country. Actually, if we list the highest score in each entry category, it goes like this:

1A 6,665	8A 9,595
2A 11,772	9A 15,982
3A 11,336	10A 3,954
4A 14,854	11A 3,854
5A 16,134	12A 6,216
6A 12,766	15A 3,304
7A 11,928	20A 21,756

Do you notice that as the number of rigs per station goes up, the score begins to DECREASE after about 5 rigs? The biggest exception was W1NH, which held the 21,756 points in the 20A category (they were the only entry in 20A).

So how can **GARS** increase our Field Day score in 1997? We could add more rigs, but scores show that this is not necessary. We could add amplifiers, but the listings also show that 99% of all entries ran 150 watts or less. What we need is even more operator experience, better band/mode strategy, even better antennas, and more focus on CW operation (CW contacts have double point value). The Field Day committee is planning for all of these things for Field Day 1997, while still having a lot of fun! Stay tuned, and you will hear the details in future **GARS** meetings!

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Random Ramblings

"It is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers."

>>> James Thurber

♦♦♦

GARS Holiday Party

By Suzanne Farr

Well it's that time of year for the Annual Gars Christmas Party. After many phone calls to hotels, restaurants and caterers, we finally found a place that I know all of our members will enjoy. Here are just a few of the facts that you will all need to know in order to participate and enjoy the evening.

DATE:

Friday, December 20

WHERE:

Best Western Falcon Inn
Touchdown Room
Suwanee

WHEN:

7:30pm - Registration
8:00pm - Dinner

PRICE:

\$15.00 per person
\$25.00 per couple

The dinner menu for the buffet is great and I'm sure that you all will agree once you see and taste it.

We will even have music so that after dinner we can all dance and have a great time. Kevin McClure, KF4HFN, has volunteered (partially coerced) to provide an array of music to suit everyone's taste.

If you have not yet purchased your tickets please contact us as soon as possible. We need to give the Falcon Inn an estimated count by December 10th. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets to the **GARS** Holiday Party, please feel free to give us a call.

Hope to see you all there.

73,
John and Suzanne Farr

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FCC PART 97, THE WAY I SEE IT PART V

By J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S

In this edition of TWISI we are going to jump right into getting a new, modified, renewed or vanity call sign license. In this edition we will complete Subpart A of Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

Section 97.17 deals with the application for a new license or reciprocal permit for alien amateur license. This section lists to various FCC Form 610s that are available for new operator/primary station, permit for alien amateur licensee and amateur service club or military recreations station license.

Each application must be submitted to the Volunteer Examiner who is administering the exam. Sub paragraph (d) defines who is qualified to submit an application. Sub paragraph (e) deals with fraud and (f) provides from one unique call sign assigned by the sequential call sign system.

Section 97.19 deals with the vanity call sign program. This section provides the eligibility and filing procedure for a vanity call sign. Call signs must have been vacated for a period of 2 years before they can be requested. The exception is for immediate relatives and for club stations with the consent of one of the surviving immediate relatives.

This section provides for a fee but does not state the amount of the fee. And finally, the procedure for providing up to 25 preferred call signs and the procedure for vacating the present call sign are provided in this section.

Section 97.21 deals with the application for a modified or renewed license. This section defines who is eligible to modify or renew a license, the proper FCC Form 610 to use and who to submit the form to. This is the section that

allows an amateur to request another call sign from the sequential call sign system if he/she does not like the call sign that was assigned originally. Required accompanying documentation is also defined in this section.

Section 97.23 provides the requirement for correct and current addresses for all licensed amateur radio operators. It requires a timely notice for a change of address but does not give a specific time limit on when the notice must be given. This section also states that holders of reciprocal alien licenses must have a US mailing address.

License terms are defined by Section 97.25. Currently a regular amateur radio license is granted for a 10 year period. An reciprocal permit for alien amateur license is normally granted for a 1 year term.

In section 97.25 we find that there are a number of circumstances where the FCC can elect to modify a particular amateur radio license. The two primary circumstances that are listed are:

1. That such action will promote the public interest, convenience and necessity.

2. That such action will promote fuller compliance with the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, or of any treaty ratified by the United States.

Sub paragraph (b) defines how such a modification will be implemented. Generally, the licensee will be given reasonable opportunity of no less than 30 days to protest the modification; except that, where safety of life or property is involved.

And finally, Section 97.29 deals with the replacement of the license document. The requirements for a written explanation of the loss of the license document

and the proper address to send the explanation to are given in this section. The replacement document will bear the same expiration date as the original license document.

This wraps up Subpart A of Part 97 of the FCC Rules and Regulations. Next time we will launch into Subpart B which should be a doozy. Subpart B deals with Station Operation Standards. Much of this section is the subject of constant and on-going controversy on the ham bands. Items such as stations control, authorized transmissions, prohibited transmissions, third party communications and international communications are contained in this Subpart.

Other juicy subjects that we will get to in Subpart B include station identification (a constant subject of conversation) and restricted operations. All of these subjects fuel much of the QSO material on all of the amateur bands. Sometimes I wonder what we would talk about if we didn't have Part 97 to interpret.

I look forward to jumping into these subjects with both feet. I will publish the boiler plate to a letter that I send out occasionally to amateurs that I think need to give some thought to their operating practices. I only send two or three of these out every year, but in the last ten years or so of sending these letters, I have yet to get a reply by phone or mail disputing what I have said.

See you next time on "The Way I See It".

♦♦♦



GARS Ham Of The Month

(Continued from page 1)

concrete and hoist it into position. I'm sure John knows if he needs any help, there are many in the club that will be willing to assist.... me included. John also owns an Alinco HT, 2 DR130's, an Alinco dual bander, a Ramsey packet kit and another Alinco DJ-180 that he picked up at the hamfest. John has been a member of the GARS club for 5 months and is a member of the ARRL.

John and his wife, Libby have lived in Atlanta six months and love it here, although he wasn't real thrilled with the cooler temperatures we experienced while at the hamfest. They moved here from West Palm Beach. John's family is full of hams. Libby is a novice, licensed KB4FFO and promised John that when she retires from Bell South she will upgrade. John's oldest son copies 30 WPM in his head while carrying on a conversation. He is a tech plus licensed KB4SCV. John's daughter is a novice, licensed KB4VZO and his other son, although not a ham, communicates with John via the Internet. All three live in Florida.

John works for Bell South and in the past has been a Sales Manager, Account Executive and Systems Designer. Currently, John is a Technical Consultant for Bell

South. Before all this, John taught 3rd grade for 9 years.

John has been a ham club president, an ARRL PR liaison, an assistant EC and remains an ARRL VE. As a VE, John has overseen hundreds of people obtain their ham licenses. John is a very knowledgeable member of our club. He likes being in the club and looks forward to other activities in which he can participate. We had a good time at the hamfest just rag chewing. Say hi to John on the **GARS** machine. He says he plans on being more active now, since he bought that new handheld at the hamfest.

I have been getting some suggestions for future ham of the month articles. Thank you !! If you haven't suggested someone to be featured as **GARS** Ham of the Month and you know of someone....please feel free to contact me at home or at work. Best 73 and see you next month.

Karl
N4JON



Random Ramblings

"Space isn't remote at all. It's only an hour's drive away if your car could go straight upwards."

>>> Fred Hoyle

"Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please."

>>> Mark Twain

Handling "Sliders"

By Jud Whatley, W4NZJ

Maybe once or twice a year, I run across "Sliders" on 10 meters while watching for band openings. "Sliders" is a term used to identify illegal CBers using HF gear equipped with VFOs who "slide" up to 10 meters to avoid interference on 11 meters.

It's normal that if you verbally request that they identify, it can lead to some nasty name calling. Since I don't want to lower myself and "wrestle in the mud, too", especially when my call is involved, I simply switch to the CW mode and give a quick "BK" in CW followed with my call. After a time or two, they usually say something to like..."It must be one of those ham stations...let's slide back".

This approach is quick, legal and it intimidates them into quickly sliding back to their frequencies because they cannot argue with CW!

Works EVERY TIME! Keeps them and us legal and without any harsh words or ill tempers.



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The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

over the PR job for the club and he is been getting very active lately. I know he will give us his support and do his best in a very difficult job.

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ although stepping down from the PR position has been very busy with promoting the club every chance he can get and gives his support to all who take up the **GARS** movement. He is a very devoted club member and we are proud to have him on our team.

Art Smith, KE4MQX our **GARZETTE** printer who through his generosity is well known and appreciated by all of us at the **GARS**. Art is in the background faithfully making sure that the **GARZETTE** gets out each month after the hard work and layout by our most talented newsletter editor Ike Chapman, KE4GYM. What a combination to have on our team working for us free of charge and putting in all that time and energy to put out the best I think newsletter in amateur radio.

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD has supported me as the VP going on 3 years now and he is by far the most active VP any club will find. Larry has headed up many a club project and has done many thankless jobs for **GARS** when no one

else would do them. He recently has been promoting a Technician class at Central Gwinnett High School, a very fulfilling experience for Larry who enjoys teaching. Larry is another fine example of what this club is all about.

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH our activities manager and club officer, just about kills himself helping out the club in so many ways. He stores the portable crank up tower for us, he never gripes when he finds that he has overextended himself in the club's behalf, he has been instrumental in making sure that the excellent food for the Ft. Yargo picnic in July for 2 years was cooked to perfection, he is 100% for the club and will do anything to see the club take top honors in every thing the club gets involved with.

Cheryl McClure, AE4HN has strung herself very thin doing Tuesday night code practice and we still don't have the volunteers to give her a break which is really a shame because as many times as we mention it, no one comes forward to help out. Cheryl is so devoted to this code practice because she feels it is so important for the club to support this program. She is right but who will help her out? Meanwhile she is also an appointed director and she helps out our monthly testing for new licenses and upgrades as a volunteer examiner. In addition to all this she has headed up the Rookie Radio department for 3 years now getting new hams interested in programs supported by the **GARS**.

Cheryl was named ham of the year for 1995 for all she did for the ham community and for the **GARS**.

We sure have a great bunch of members out there pitching in to see results and I think they are pleased with the outcome of what they get involved with. But like everything else in life, this is a hobby of coming and going. Some members roll with the punches and others want changes today and instead of communicating their ideas to the proper folks, they discuss their ideas with friends of theirs in the hopes that their ideas will get promoted. But that never happens and so discussion on the subject continues on and on with no results and the folks who can make changes are never given the opportunity to listen to the ideas or work with the individuals because they were never approached. This my friends, is how small matters become overpowering in a short time and lack of communicating with the right sources brings out the worst in us. I am afraid that there will always be factors like these in any club and more so in one of this size. The good thing is that these matters are never so big as to undermine the foundation of officers and membership at large.

The present officers of the **GARS** all work together and there is no one force so to speak in control of the club. The officers listen to the membership and it is easy to get your message across if indeed you feel that strongly about changes. Lets get it out in the open

(Continued on page 10)

Work **GARS**

REPEATERS

2-Meter 147.075 MHz ⁺⁸⁰⁰
PL 82.5
70-cm 444.525 MHz ^{+5MHz}
PL 156.7

TELEPHONE BBS

GARS Conference in
Scientific-Atlanta BBS
(770) 903-6789

6-METER BEACON

WA4IOB 6 Meter Beacon at
50.075 MHz

PACKET

WD4JXR-6 / SNELLY Packet
Node/Digipeater 145.03 MHz

SWAP, WANTED and SELL NET

Tuesdays at 8:00PM on the
GARS 2m Repeater.

MORSE CODE PRACTICE

An interactive Morse Code practice session
follows the 8:00PM Tuesday night net on
the **GARS** 2m repeater.

PACKET RADIO USERS NET

Wednesdays at 8:00 PM on the **GARS**
2m Repeater.



Notes From The League

The following items are courtesy of the ARRL Letter, published by the American Radio Relay League.

Happy Birthday, Walter

Former CBS Evening News anchor Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, celebrated his 80th birthday November 4. Cronkite holds a Novice class ticket.

Another HT QSO with Mir

Ed Tenhulzen, WH6CXQ, in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, reports he worked Valeri Korzun operating on 145.55 MHz as R0MIR aboard the Mir space station on October 28. Ed was on his lunch hour at the time running 2.5 W to a Yaesu FT-208R and a mobile 5/8-wave antenna. Ed's friend, Ted Brattstrom, NH6YK, also worked R0MIR. As Ed commented: "As you can see, it doesn't take all that much muscle to work Mir. It just takes persistence."

New Outgoing QSL Service Fee

The fee for the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service is going up. Effective January 1, 1997, the fee for the Outgoing QSL Service will be \$4 per pound or any portion of a pound. The fee remains at \$1 for ten cards or fewer.—Joe Carcia, NJ1Q

W1B

The FCC has granted special temporary authority for John R. Fowler, N1PDV, to use the 1x1 call sign W1B on February 8-9, 1997, from Jericho, Vermont, to honor the 132nd anniversary of the birth of Wilson Alwyn "Snowflake" Bentley, the man credited with determining that no two snowflakes are alike, Fowler said. According to Fowler, Bentley, a Jericho, Vermont, native, photographed more than 5000 individual snowflakes using a camera rigged to a microscope. He also analyzed the density and shape of individual raindrops. Fowler said the W1B operation will include SSB and CW in the general portions of as many HF bands as the group can muster.



The President's Pen

(Continued from page 9)

where we can deal with it and let the decisions fall where they may.

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI will be introducing a program on Skywarn with us at the November meeting. I urge all of you who can attend this meeting to do so as it is vital to the foundation of good emergency communications for the club to be involved with.

I must remind all of you about

the ham of the year award to be issued at our year end party on Dec. 20th at the Falcon Inn. You must have your nominations in by Dec. 1st for your vote to count. Please follow through on this and get your vote in to any of the club officers via e-mail or other means just so long as you do.

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been having during October a pleasant break from that long summer heat wave. Now is a good time for you all to inspect your feed lines and antennas and prepare them for the winter months. Things stretch in the heat and you may find that old reliable inverted vee or dipole has slipped out of resonance over the summer. Check your support ropes also and don't forget a weight on each leg to take up the slack instead of a permanent tie down. It would also be a good time to install a good ground system if you have not already done so.

The officers of the GARS welcome all you new members to the club and extend our warm wishes that you become involved with the club in any way that you can. There is so much you can do to make your stay with us pleasant and productive so that we all benefit from your experiences up to now.

Take care, God bless and see you at the meeting.

73

Howie, W4NVF



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THE GARZETTE

NOVEMBER, 96

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30226



GARS meets the third Thursday of each month at Central Baptist Church on Gwinnett Drive in Lawrenceville. The next meeting will be on November 21 at 7:30 P.M.

PAGE 12

THE GARZETTE

NOVEMBER, 96

Metro Atlanta Test Sessions

GARS Publishes Metro Area VE/VEC Exam Schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed

1st Sunday - 2:00PM - W5YI VEC
Duane Reynolds, WB2YAD - 338-8791
Jackson EMC, 461 Swanson Road,
Lawrenceville

1st Monday - 7:30PM - ARRL VEC
Delaine McCarthy, KM4FV - 993-9758
St. Ann Catholic Church - 4905 Roswell
Rd - Marietta

1st Saturday - 9:00AM
George White, KN4NG 361-6850
Clayton Co. Emergency Mgmt. Bldg.
7496 N. McDonough St. - Jonesboro

2nd Sundays - 3:00PM
Mike Mahaffey, AD4QB - 974-7710
First Presbyterian Church,
183 West Main Street, Cartersville

2nd Tuesday - 7:00PM
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA 498-7759
Walton EMC
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville

2nd Saturday - 8:30AM - CA VEC
Hal Martin, K14RD - 978-9160
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain St., Stone Mtn.

3rd Saturdays - 9:00AM - CA VEC
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ - 955-3171
Marietta First United Methodist Church
56 Whitlock Ave, Room 305

4th Sunday- 2:30PM - ARRL VEC
Steve Schmidt, KR4DL - 242-6142
Episcopal Church of the Atonement
Highpoint Rd, Atlanta

4th Tuesday - 7:00PM ARRL VEC
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK - 942-6466
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA

4th Friday - 7:00PM
GARS W5YI-VEC
Howie Gould, W4NVF 921-8362
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Rd, off Five Forks
Trickum Rd, Lilb...

Metro Area Nets And Roundtables

Mon	147.21+	8:00PM	Conyers ARES Net t-162.2
Mon	145.45-	8:00PM	ARES Net (Decatur)
Mon	145.47-	8:00PM	North Fulton ARL Net
Mon	145.41-	8:30PM	MATPARC Net
Mon	3.975	8:00PM	Swap Net
Tue	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Weekly Net
Tue	147.075+	9:00PM	GARS CW Practice
Tue	145.47-	10:30PM	Insomniac Net
Wed	147.075+	8:00PM	GARS Packet Net
Wed	145.41-	8:00PM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Wed	146.67-	9:00PM	LARC Net
Wed	146.655-	9:00PM	BSRG Net t-188.8
Thu	146.88-	8:00PM	Kennahoochie ARC
Thu	147.225+	8:00PM	NE Ga ARC
Thu	147.15	8:00PM	simplex
Thu	145.41-	9:30PM	AMSAT
Thu	Cable57	9:30PM	Amateur Television, ATV
Fri	3.898	8:00PM	GA Traders Net
Fri	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sat	7.275	8:00AM	Swap Net
Sat	3.857	9:00AM	Chapter 49, QCWA Net
Sat	146.76-	Midnight	Turnip Truck Net t-107.2
Sun	147.075+	8:00PM	Gwinnett ARES Net
Sun	146.82-	8:00PM	ARC Net
Sun	146.76-	7:00PM	Roundtable AMRC t-107.2
Sun	7.275	9:00AM	GA Traders Net
Sun	3.983	5:00PM	GA ARES
Daily	146.76-	Noon	Brown Bag Net t-107.2
Daily	146.88-	11:00PM	Late Nite Owl Net
Daily	146.79-	8:00PM	Sassafrass Mtn.
Daily	3.975	6:00PM	WX & Skywarn

This is a "living list", meaning it is constantly changing. If you know of additions or changes to it please contact the Editor.